

## PROBLEM CHILD / /

The “Joseph H. Rutlader Traders Alaska” tokens are tentatively attributed to Goodnews Bay on the basis of the name similarity to the “Alaska Traders” tokens from Platinum. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to support this attribution.

In an email from Ron Benice, he states “Kaye (Dethridge) told me that Joe Jean’s daughter and Peter Wold’s widow both said they never heard of Rutlader.

Articles about Platinum, Alaska in the Alaska Sportsman, September 1938, December 1940 and December 1949, make no mention of Rutlader. They do mention Alaska Traders and Peter Wold, and Berg’s Roadhouse. *The Platinum King, Andrew Olson’s Story* by Jan Olof Lindtrom and Karen L. Olson, published in 2004 make no mention of Rutlader. Alaska Traders in mentioned being run by Ed and Marie Harwood; Hanson and Strandberg was a second store; Felder and Gale was the third. Another business was the Stampede Inn, a coffee shop. Finally there was also Berg’s roadhouse.

A search of the internet turned up “Rutlader Outpost,” 30 minutes south of Kansas City, KS. Most “hits” on Google were for this business. An email received the following reply:

“My husband and I purchased this strip of buildings about seven years ago from Jim Rutlader, and we named it after him. Most of the people in our area already knew it as just Rutladers, so we called it Rutlader Outpost. Jim is still living just south of this property, but I believe he had a brother named Joe. Both brothers were in business together in the KC area, involved in antiques, jewelry and imports. Hopefully, this will help in your research. If you want to contact Jim Rutlader (who is elderly) you can send to our address and we will see that he receives it. Brenda Harris.”

I wrote a letter, and about a month or so later, I received a phone call from Mr. James Rutlader. I was not totally ready for it, but did manage to get some basic information. He told me that Joseph was about 20 years older, and that they were not close. James was born in 1921. He did not know what his brother did in Alaska, but thought he packed fish. He (Joseph) was born Baptist, but converted to Judaism. As we will see, some of this information is not correct.

Mr. Rutlader stated that they were not close, did not have much contact. Yet Brenda Harris of Rutlader Outpost says they were in business together. Further research bears this out.

Mr. Rutlader stated that his brother was 20 years older than him. The Social Security Death Index gives Joseph’s date of birth as March 12, 1913, so there was only an 8 year difference.



continued on page 12

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This has been a fun and frustrating month. Shall we say frustratingly fun?

First, I received a reply from Scammon Bay about Negus, but then no response to my second inquiry. I will be emailing again. Secondly, I thought I had the bull by the horns when I found Joseph H. Rutlader's step-daughter. But she could shed no light.

I do expect to get more information on Negus, even if it is not in the same time frame as we believe the token was issued. Unless someone can access the business license records of the Territory of Alaska, I think we are at an end for Rutlader.

And through all this research, Kaye Dethridge and Ron Benice have graciously provide what information they could from their notes and memories.

Kaye had a nice selection on eBay this past month, but we liked the paper items, and they take up nearly three pages.

As I type this, I am waiting for the Salchaket \$1 to close. That will be one of the last pieces of information to complete this issue.

Overall, auctions for Alaska tokens seem to have been week this past month, except for the really rare pieces. We have seen more Alaska tokens on eBay than we ever thought existed. Perhaps the market is getting a bit full.

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## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10a	OB35.00NB
<b>Annette</b> , Tamgas Harbor Club, GF One, B-1a	266.61
<b>Chatanika</b> , Bingle Fritz, 25¢, B-1a	60.00OB
<b>Chatanika</b> , Bingle Fritz, \$1, B-1c	91.00
<b>Cleary</b> , Totem, 12½¢, B-4a	OB35.00NB
<b>Cordova</b> , Horseshoe Liquor, 6¼¢, B-20a	OB45.00NB
<b>Cordova</b> , Windsor Hotel, 6¼¢, B-41a, dug	OB125.00NB
<b>Cordova</b> , Windsor Hotel, B-41c	OB95.00NB
<b>Douglas</b> , PH Fox, 1 Loaf, B-17a, extremely rough	95.00OB
<b>Douglas</b> , Palace of Sweets, 6¼¢, B-31a	125.00OB
<b>Eek</b> , McIntyre, 50¢, B-1b	OB45.00NB
<b>Eek</b> , McIntyre, \$1, B-1c	50.00OB
<b>Excursion Inlet</b> , A&PSCCo, \$1 w/S, B-1e	OB95.00NB
<b>Fairbanks</b> , University Coach, 12½¢, B-T8a	9.99OB
<b>Hoonah</b> , Hoonah Pkg. Co., \$1, B-1e	45.00OB
<b>Koyukuk</b> , Evans, \$5, B-1e	OB96.00
<b>Latouche</b> , Little, 12½¢, B-2a	OB125.00NB
<b>McCarthy</b> , Johnson Hotel, B-4a	30.00OB
<b>Minto</b> , Campbell, B-1a	46.00
<b>Nabesna</b> , Nebesna Trd. Co., \$1, B-1a	OB75.00NB
<b>Nome</b> , The Hoffman, "8", B-26a	OB145.00NB
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	61.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b, PCGS MS-61	150.01
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	61.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$5, B-1g	126.15
<b>Ruby</b> , Spitz, 25¢, B-6a	588.99
<b>Salchaket</b> , Trading Post, \$1, B-1c	1,853.28
<b>Seward</b> , The Palace, 6¼¢, B-9aI	733.00
<b>Seward</b> , The Palace, 25¢, B-9d, holed	513.00
<b>Sitka</b> , Andersen, 50¢, B-3f	417.02
<b>Sitka</b> , Witz, 5¢, B-17a	OB49.99NB
<b>Skagway</b> , BPOE, no denom., B-2b	OB30.00NB
<b>Skagway</b> , Shooting Gallery, 10¢, B-25aII	OB95.00NB
<b>Snug Harbor</b> , Pioneer Canneries, \$1.25 box	OB40.00NB
<b>Tolovana</b> , Martin, 25¢, B-1a	259.12
<b>Valdez</b> , I&B, no denomination, B-9a	90.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , Nizina, 40¢, B-14c	428.00
<b>Valdez</b> , Pioneers of Alaska, \$5, B-18a	OB75.00NB
<b>Alaska Central Railway</b> chit, B-C1a	95.00OB
<b>Alaska Home Railway</b> chit, B-C3a	OB90.00NB
<b>Dawson</b> , YT, B&M, 12½¢	137.20
<b>Dawson</b> , YT, Tanana Hotel, 25¢	OB300.00NB
<b>Dawson</b> , YT, Tanana Hotel, 25¢	BIN325.00NB
<b>Dawson</b> , YT, Tanana Hotel, 25¢	RLBIN325.00NB
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , ¼ Pinch, octagonal, 1902, NGC-60	609.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , ½ Pinch, round, 1899, jewelry	204.49
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , ½ Pinch, octagonal, 1900, NGC-58	687.00
<b>AYPE</b> , 1 DWT, 1909	175.50
<b>AK Statehood</b> , 1959, HK-527 NGC-66	OB179.99NB
<b>AYPE</b> , encased L cent, 1909, potty shape	OB69.99NB
<b>Rainier Beer</b> , Alaska's Favorite, encased cent	OB49.60
<b>Spring Hill, Tierra del Fuego</b> 50¢	RLOB£169.99NB
<b>Spring Hill, Tierra del Fuego</b> 50¢	RLOB£169.99NB
<b>Thule, Greenland</b> , 500 Ore, 1910	£35.00(61.68)

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist  
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve  
 BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

## ***PROBLEM CHILD I I***

James said Joseph converted to Judaism. Did I hear him correctly? According to Ron Benice, Rutlader is a Jewish name, more common forms being Ruslader, Ruslander and Russlander (the t and s being interchanged between two major Hebrew dialects).

Let's now look at Joseph H. Rutlader's obituary from the Kansas City Star, December 30, 1987:

"Joseph H. Rutlader, 74, southwest Kansas City, died Dec. 29, 1987, at Baptist Medical Center. He was born in Poland and lived in Fort Worth, Texas, before he moved to Kansas City in 1931. Mr. Rutlader worked for the Goodluck Furniture Co. from 1941 until he retired as manager in 1960. He was a member of.... Survivors include his wife Naomi Rutlader of the home; a stepson, Stephen M. Untrif, Pleasant Hill in Cass County; a stepdaughter, Rhoda C. Rosen, Overland Park; a brother, James Rutlader and a sister Rose Mallin, both of Kansas City; and five stepgrandchildren...."

Naomi, his wife, passed away in 1992. Rose Mallin, his sister passed away in 1996.

Attempts to contact Stephen M. Untrif, Joseph's stepson have been unsuccessful.

I contacted Mrs. Rhoda Rosen, Joseph's stepdaughter. Joseph Rutlader married Naomi, Mrs. Rosen's mother, in 1983 after a 20 year friendship. She could not shed any light on the tokens. She said that Joe and James were in business with their mother, Sarah until her death in 1980. "Joe did not discuss his business dealings with me or Mom. I knew that he and James had a coin shop and a rock shop housed in one of his real estate holdings along with a used furniture store..." Further, she states "I do NOT remember ever hearing anything about Alaska so I am unable to answer your questions."

It seems odd that no mention was ever made of Alaska. Even someone who visits for just a week is likely to talk about their experience for the rest of their life!

Mrs. Rosen remembers Joseph H. Rutlader as "a gentle soul, a kind friend, and I always knew him has a man of good character in all those years that I knew him."

Since the brothers had a coin shop, I asked if it was

possible that the tokens were made as a novelty item for sale in the store. Mrs. Rosen replied "I am guessing any tokens were made to be sold as a novelty item." Unfortunately, it is only a guess and not a definitive answer. Would she have thought of this possibility if I had not mentioned it?

Based upon his obituary, the chronology of Joseph's life is Poland to Ft. Worth, Texas, moved to Kansas City in 1931 and went to work for the Goodluck Furniture Company in 1941. Joseph was 18 in 1931 when he left Ft. Worth for Kansas City. He was 28 when he began working for Goodluck Furniture Co. in 1941. These 10 years are the only chance he had to be in Alaska. There is our window of opportunity. But no evidence of this has come to light.

The Rutlader tokens were not listed in either Alaska token book published in 1965 (*Rubles to Statehood* and *Alaska's Coinage Through the Years*). When did they first appear? Ron Benice first saw a Joseph H. Rutlader token in 1969. Kaye Dethridge did not obtain one until 1971

So, call me a cynic. I tend to believe at this time that these were a novelty item sold in the brother's store. Perhaps some one in Juneau can research the business licenses for 1931 to 1941. If nothing is found, perhaps we can put this to rest.

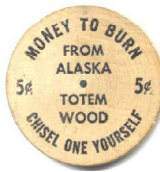
## ***PROBLEM CHILD I UPDATE***

In researching St. Michael and Scammon Bay, I found census population data. St. Michael's population peaked in 1900 at 857. By 1930, the population was down to 147. Scammon Bay does not show up until the 1940 census with a population of 88. All previous censuses show 0. With this information, it is not likely that the R.J. Negus token is from Scammon Bay. But wait....

On the Sunday after mailing the January issue, I was listening to KUAC radio (pubic radio), and they have a weekly show on Alaska topics and people. One of the people they interviewed was Harley Sundown, principal of the school at Scammon Bay. Well, I now had a name, so I wrote a letter to Mr. Sundown. I received an email, and yes, "People from here do know about him (Negus)." So I hope to have more information soon!

# MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips



Our northbound “Alaska Cruise” comes to an end at the northern terminus of our trip. From here, one buses 127 miles to Anchorage, then flies home. We disembark at...

The town of Seward is located on Resurrection Bay on the southeast side of the Kenai Peninsula, on the south coast of the main body of Alaska. It is named for William H. Seward, the U.S. Secretary of State, who pushed the purchase of Alaska in 1867.

Settlers first arrived in the 1890s. A long lasting and major event occurred in 1903 when a railroad line was started from the port of Seward to run into the “interior” of Alaska. By 1910, only 50 miles had been built and the railroad when broke. Finally the U.S. government stepped in and financed the ongoing construction of the railroad to its northern terminus of Fairbanks, 407 miles away. The railroad was finally completed in 1923. All the while, Seward was the busy port for supplies.

To this day, Seward is a very busy port city (due to its year round ice free location), as it is still one of the main southern terminuses of the railroad, the other being Whittier. Cruise ships dock daily during the summer months and the Alaska Marine Highway System (ferries) travel in and out on a regular schedule.

The population of 2,794 supports itself primarily on tourism, commercial fishing, shipping and as a location for a state prison.

One special event bears mention. Each year, since 1915, a “mad cap” race takes place. Racers come from all over the world on July 4th to race up and back on Mount Marathon, which mountain overlooks Seward. The race course is a mile and half up and a mile and a half down the mountain. The vertical rise in this distance is 30122 feet, over rocks, gravel, mud and snow. Injuries are common and frequent. The best time to date is 43 minutes, 23 seconds, set in 1981.

The woods I have chosen to illustrate are two Solly’s woods: Solly’s in Seward and Solly’s Office (Kodiak).



They are both 38mm with black printing.

Solly was Sol Urie, owner of Solly’s in Seward, and Solly’s, the Beachcomber and Solly’s Office in Kodiak. He issued many tokens for all establishments. He passed away in Kodiak in 1982 at the age of 82.

The old Solly’s building in Seward, over the years, housed a drug store, saloon, offices and an artist’s studio. At present it is vacant and is being considered for demolition so as to free up the location for construction of a new combined Visitor Reception Center and offices for the Kenai Fjords National Park and Chugach National Forest Service headquarters.

## CLASSIC RARITY ON eBAY



**Salchaket Trading Post, \$1.00 in Trade.** This is one of the most desirable Alaska tokens - pictorial and rare. See this month’s prices realized.

I keep threatening to take a metal detector out to the site of the Trading Post, but three people tell me three different locations! Maybe this summer.



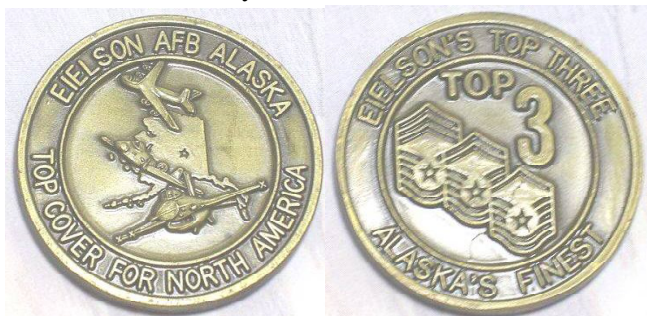
# MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



**ALASKA:** U.S. Army Alaska, Law Enforcement Command, Presented by the Battalion Commander, Arctic Enforcers. Blue and green enamel on oxidized silver color.



**ALASKA:** Alaskan Command, Joint award for Excellence. Blue, white, yellow and red enamel on bronze.



**EIELSON AFB:** Eielson's Top Three, Alaska's Finest, Top Cover for North America. Bronze.



**(EIELSON AFB)?:** 354 MXS, Alaska's Finest Warriors, Biggest and Best. Red, green, purple, light blue, dark blue on silver colored metal.



**EIELSON AFB:** 18th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Farthest F... North Aircraft Maintenance Unit, We knock it off at 40 below. Mating polar bears. Red, white, blue, black and yellow on oxidized silver metal?



**ELMENDORF AFB:** 3rd Fuels Management Flight, POL Arctic Warriors. Black and white enamel on gold colored metal.



**NAS KEFLAVIK, ICELAND:** USAFE AMMO, Ammo on Ice. Red, yellow, blue and black enamel on bronze?



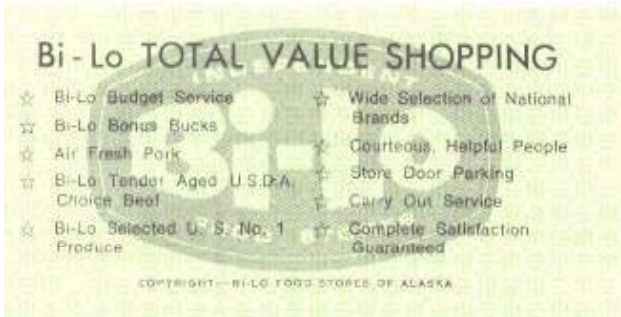
**ICELAND:** Provost Marshal, Command Investigator Blind Justice and scales, parts of US and Iceland flags behind. Red, white and blue enamel on brass.



# PAPER POTPOURRI

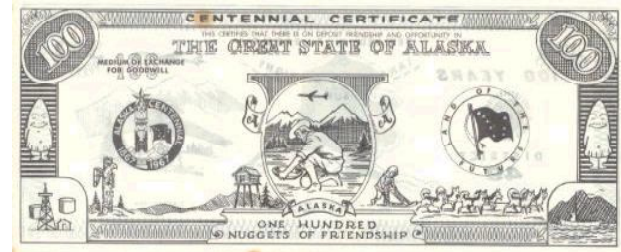


**ALASKA:** North Air/Budget Rent a Car, \$1. \$13 good for one ticket. Black on cream, 162 x 80mm (Dethridge).



**(ANCHORAGE):** Bi-Lo Stores of Alaska, 20 Bi-Lo Bonus Bucks. Black on pale green, 108 x 58mm (Dethridge).

**ANCHORAGE:** John Cowdery, State House. Revenue Shrinking Dollars, Don't Blow it, Let's Change it. Blue on white, with Cowdery in yellow, 74 x 56mm, in zip lock bag with miniature coins (Dethridge). Illustrated at the top of the right column.

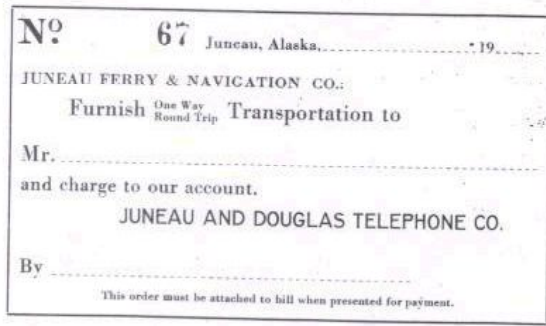


**ANCHORAGE:** Muldoon Tudor Lions Club, 100 Nuggets of Friendship, Centennial Certificate. Front black on white, back green on white, 165 x 73mm (Dethridge).



**FAIRBANKS:** Eagles Scrip, 50. Printed by Jessens. Black on white, 127 x 51mm (Dethridge).

# PAPER POTPOURRI, cont.



**JUNEAU/DOUGLAS:** Juneau Ferry & Navigation, Juneau and Douglas Telephone Co., One way round trip. Black on white, 108 x 70mm (Dethridge).



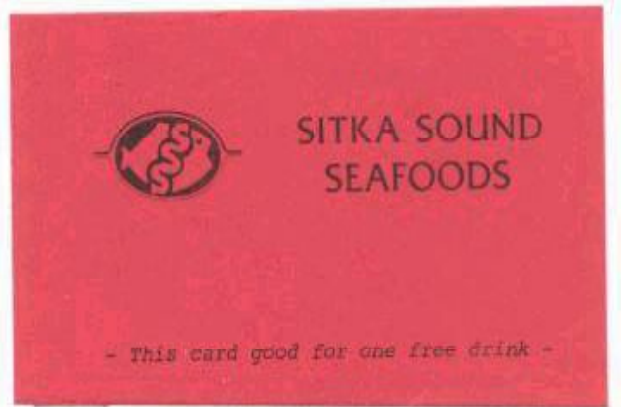
**NOME:** Wien Alaska Airlines, Kotzebue-Nome Tour, good for one meal for one person in Nome. Blue on yellow, 131 x 91mm (Dethridge).



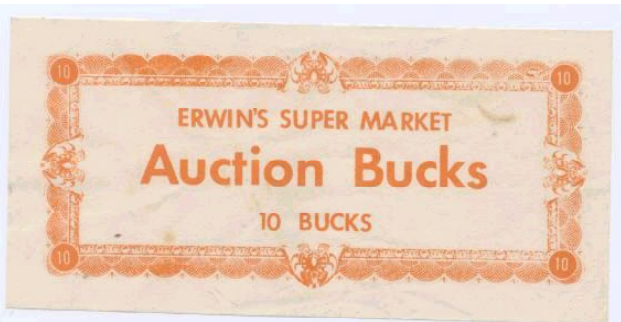
**(NOME?):** I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) Security Bank, 1000. Black on white(?), 152 x 80mm (Dethridge).



**(PELICAN):** Pelican Seafoods, 1995, Good for One. One what? Kaye Dethridge thinks it is for a sauna! Hmmm. Black on white, 110 x 55mm.



**SITKA:** Sitka Sound Seafoods, This card good for: (2) One free drink, black on red and black on cream; a FREE Ride Home, black on gray. All 89 x 51mm.



**JUNEAU:** Erwins Super Market, Auction Bucks, 10 Bucks. Orange on white, 139 x 69mm (Dethridge).



## PAPER POTPOURRI, cont.



**SITKA:** Westmark Shee Atika, 100 Shee Atika Bucks. Green on white, 152 x 70mm (Dethridge).



**ALASKA:** American Packing Company chits: 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢. Black on faded, indistinguishable colors, serial number and denomination in red. Each chit 51 x 25mm. Possibly Naknek (Dethridge).

## ERRORS IN THIS ISSUE

I am sure that there are more, but here are two that I caught after the pages had been printed:

Page 18: Millie's River Inn. There are also black on blue, white and yellow drink tokens.

Page 18: Adams/Alaska. The mint was Metal Arts Co. of Rochester, NY. This is edge numbered and edge marked "Silver Coin Series."

**Downtown Fairbanks**

Park in the Downtown Transportation Center.  
It's safe, convenient, and free with validation.  
Be sure to ask!

**1 hour FREE PARKING**  
FAIRBANKS PARKING AUTHORITY  
Only for Downtown Transportation Center, 201 Lacey Street  
Not redeemable for cash.

**1 hour FREE PARKING**  
FAIRBANKS PARKING AUTHORITY  
Only for Downtown Transportation Center, 201 Lacey Street  
Not redeemable for cash.

Take all the time you need to visit downtown by parking in the Downtown Transportation Center!

Photos by Wayne Trillick

**FAIRBANKS:** Downtown Transportation Center (parking garage) flier with two attached sticker tokens good for 1 hour free parking. Tokens are green on white with a black border, about 29mm. Flier is multicolored, 227 x 100mm. These are no longer in use and have been withdrawn. We have a limited number available for \$5 plus long SASE.



# FOR THE RECORD



**FAIRBANKS:** Midnight Sun Game, 100th Anniversary, 1906-2006. One ounce silver. We will have these available later in the spring.



**KENAI:** Bicentennial, 1791-1991, Village with a Past, City with a Future. One ounce silver (Kurtis Hawk).



**KENAI:** The Raven, 1791-1993, Village with a Past, City with a Future. One ounce Silver (Kurtis Hawk).



**(JUNEAU):** Mendenhall Glacier, Tongass National Forest. Bronze, 38mm (Kurtis Hawk).

**(DENALI NATIONAL PARK):** Mountain Climber, Mt. McKinley. Bronze, 39mm (Kurtis Hawk). Illustrated at the top of the right column.



**PRUDHOE BAY:** GC-3 (Gathering Center 3). Odd looking polar bear. One ounce silver.



**(STERLING):** Millie's River Inn. One beer, black on red; One drink, black on pink. Both plastic, 38mm. A black on green beer token was reported in the June, 2005 issue (Kurtis Hawk).



**ADAMS/ALASKA:** Not pictured in *Alaska's Coinage through the Years*, page 7, number 4. We have been in business nearly 30 years, and this is the first time we have seen this medal! And what is the connection with Adams? Perhaps they paired states with presidents in reverse order - Hawaii with Washington, Alaska with Adams, etc. By Heraldic Arts Co.